

Appendix

**D**

# **AGENCY COORDINATION**

# ARMSTRONG CONSULTANTS, INC.

861 Rood Avenue — Grand Junction, Colorado 81501 — (970) 242-0101 — FAX (970) 241-1769

July 7, 1997

Mr. Jerry Perry, Supervisor  
State of Arizona Game & Fish Department  
Tucson Regional Office  
555 North Greasewood Avenue  
Tucson, AZ 85745

RE: Whiteriver Airport  
Environmental Overview

Dear Mr. Perry:

Armstrong Consultants has been retained to prepare an Airport Master Plan Study and Environmental Overview for the Whiteriver Airport, Whiteriver, Arizona. The Environmental Overview is intended to determine any potential environmental considerations associated with the following recommended airport improvement projects:

- (1) Relocate Parallel taxiway by 40 feet to the northwest.
- (2) Extend Runway 1/19 safety area by approximately 220 feet to the southwest.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Guidelines, a Categorical Exclusion applies to the proposed projects and the need for a full Environmental Assessment is not anticipated.

Item Number 1 is the relocation and reconstruction of the parallel taxiway 40 feet to the northwest in order to meet FAA runway-taxiway separation requirements. The existing runway-taxiway separation is 200 feet. The FAA requirement for this classification of runway is 240 feet. Relocating the taxiway to the northwest an additional 40 feet will meet FAA Safety and Design Standards.

Item number 2 is the extension of the Runway Safety Area to meet FAA Safety and Design Standards. The existing RSA is 150 feet wide by approximately 80 feet in length. The FAA requirement is 150 feet wide by 300 feet in length. Extending the Runway Safety Area approximately 220 feet to the southwest by placing fill material, grading, and compacting the area, will meet FAA Safety and Design Standards. No fill material will be placed into the White River located adjacent to the Airport.

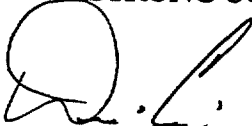
The proposed airport improvements listed and explained above will occur exclusively within reservation land owned and controlled by the airport sponsor, the White Mountain Apache Indian Tribe.

To assist us in preparing this Environmental Overview, and to comply with the requirements of the Federal Aviation Administration, we request your comments concerning the possibility of the proposed development actions impacting any area threatened or endangered species.

Enclosed for your reference is a drawing of the proposed improvements to the Whiteriver Airport. Please contact me at (970) 242-0101 if you have any questions regarding this matter. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

ARMSTRONG CONSULTANTS, INC.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'D. Corsi', is written over the typed name.

Dennis A. Corsi  
Airport Planner

Enclosure



# ARIZONA

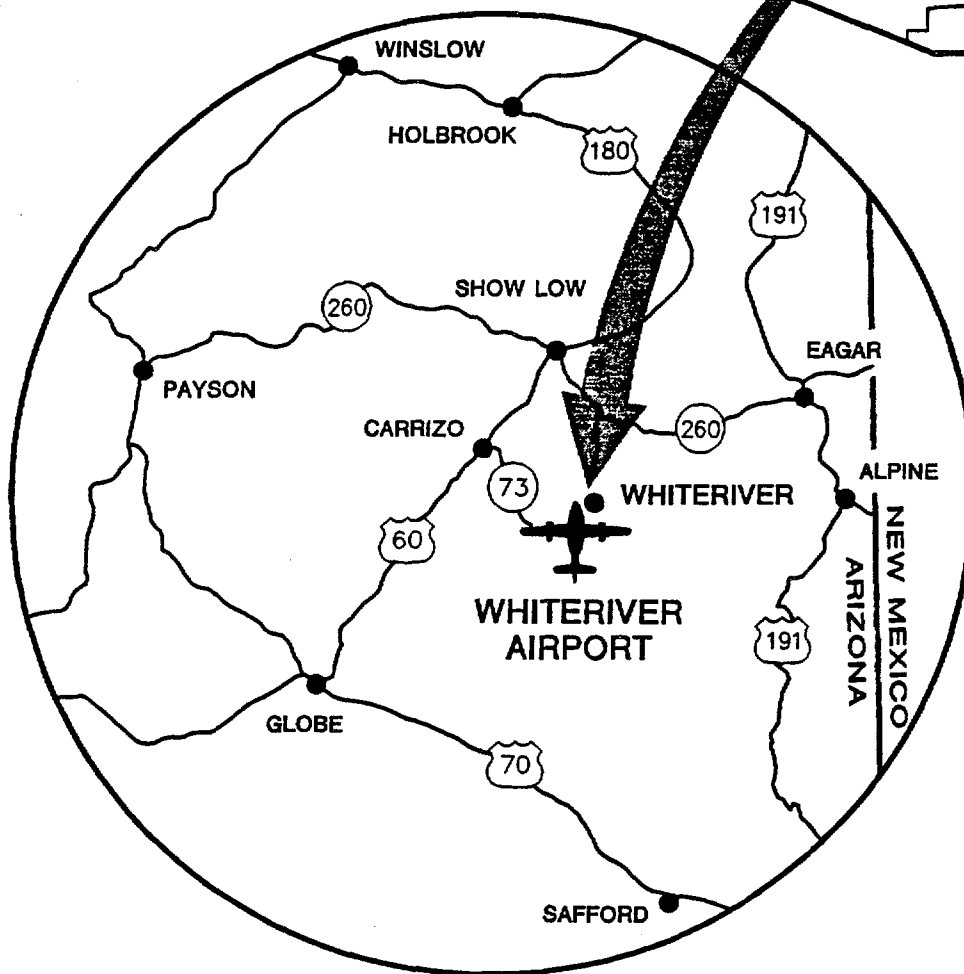
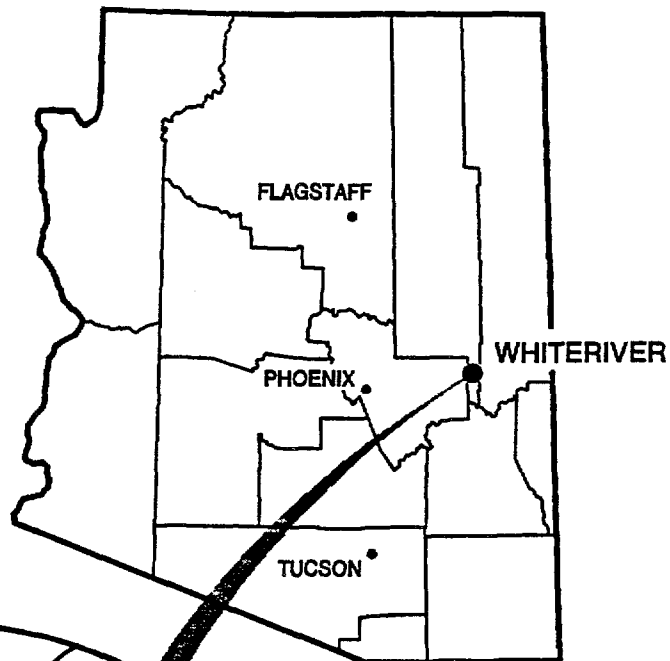
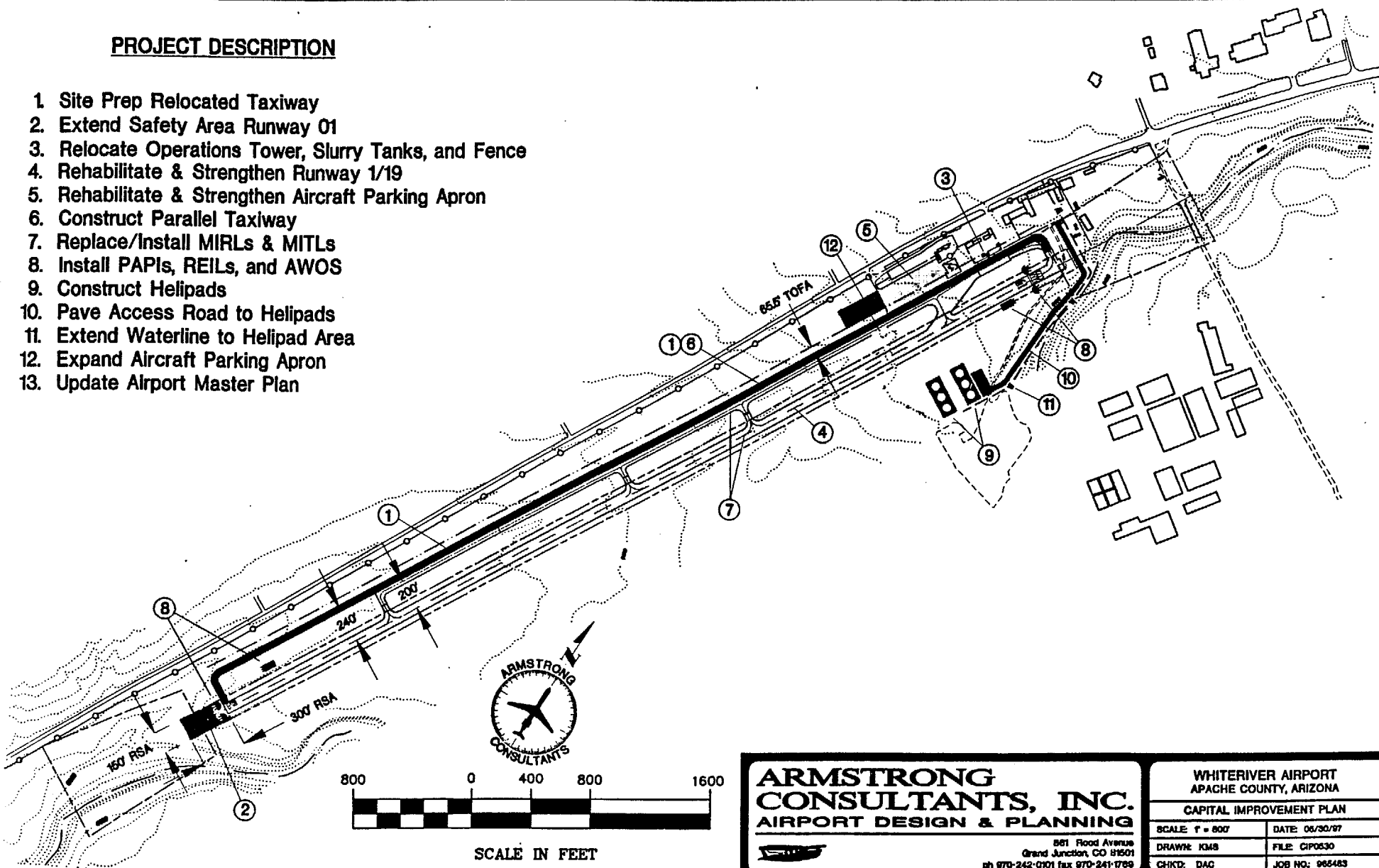


FIGURE 2-1  
VICINITY MAP  
WHITERIVER AIRPORT

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. Site Prep Relocated Taxiway
2. Extend Safety Area Runway 01
3. Relocate Operations Tower, Slurry Tanks, and Fence
4. Rehabilitate & Strengthen Runway 1/19
5. Rehabilitate & Strengthen Aircraft Parking Apron
6. Construct Parallel Taxiway
7. Replace/Install MIRLs & MITLs
8. Install PAPIs, REILs, and AWOS
9. Construct Helipads
10. Pave Access Road to Helipad Area
11. Extend Waterline to Helipad Area
12. Expand Aircraft Parking Apron
13. Update Airport Master Plan



**ARMSTRONG  
CONSULTANTS, INC.**  
AIRPORT DESIGN & PLANNING

881 Road Avenue  
Grand Junction, CO 81501  
ph 970-242-0101 fax 970-241-0789

**WHITERIVER AIRPORT  
APACHE COUNTY, ARIZONA**

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

SCALE: 1" = 800'

DATE: 06/30/97

DRAWN: JMS

FILE: CIP0530

CHKD: DAC

JOB NO: 968483



IN REPLY REFER TO:

# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Arizona Fishery Resources Office

P.O. Box 39

Pinetop, Arizona 85935

520-367-1953

RECEIVED JUL 28 1997

TAKE  
PRIDE IN  
AMERICA

July 25, 1997

In Reply Refer To:

AZFRO

2-23-97-I-050

Dennis A. Corsi, Airport Planner

Armstrong Consultants, Inc.

861 Rood Avenue

Grand Junction, Colorado 81501

Dear Mr. Corsi,

This letter responds to your request of July 7, 1997 for a list of species which are listed as threatened, endangered, or are proposed to be listed as such under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act), which may potentially occur in Whiteriver Airport project area in the Fort Apache Indian Reservation, Navajo County, Arizona. The enclosed list may include candidate species as well. In future communications regarding this project, please refer to consultation number 2-23-97-I-050.

The enclosed list of the endangered, threatened, proposed, and candidate species includes all those potentially occurring anywhere in the county, or counties, where your project occurs. Please note that your project area may not necessarily include all or any of these species. The information provided includes general descriptions, habitat requirements, and other information for each species on the list. Also on the enclosed list is the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) citation for each listed or proposed species. Additional information can be found in the CFR and is available at most public libraries. Also enclosed are copies of the Federal Register Notices regarding the final rule listing the jaguar *Panthera onca* as endangered and critical habitat for the Southwestern willow flycatcher *Empidonax traillii extimus*. This information should assist you in determining which species may or may not occur within your project area.

Endangered and threatened species are protected by Federal law and must be considered prior to project development. If the action agency determines that listed species or critical habitat may be adversely affected by a federally funded, permitted, or authorized activity, the action agency must request formal

consultation with the Service. If the action agency determines that the planned action may jeopardize a proposed species or destroy or adversely modify proposed critical habitat, the action agency must enter into a section 7 conference with the Service. Candidate species are those which are being considered for addition to the list of threatened or endangered species. Candidate species are those for which there is sufficient information to support a proposal for listing. Although candidate species have no legal protection under the Act, we recommend that they be considered in the planning process in the event that they become listed or proposed for listing prior to project completion.

The White Mountain Apache Tribe may protect some species not protected by Federal law. Please contact the Sensitive Species Coordinator of the White Mountain Apache Outdoor Recreation and Wildlife Division for a list of species the Tribe considers to be culturally or biologically significant.

If any proposed action occurs in or near riparian habitat, the Service recommends the protection of these areas. Riparian areas are critical to biological community diversity and provide linear corridors important to migratory species. In addition, if the project will result in fill materials into waterways, we recommend you contact the Army Corps of Engineers which regulates this activity under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

The Service appreciates your efforts to identify and avoid impacts to listed and sensitive species in your project area. If we may be of further assistance, please contact Mary Jo Stegman of my staff at 520-367-1907.

Sincerely,



Lawrence J. Wirtanen  
Acting Project Leader

Enclosure

cc: Cynthia Westfall, Sensitive Species Coordinator, White Mountain Apache  
Tribe Wildlife and Outdoor Recreation Division, Whiterver, Arizona

12/12/96

LISTED TOTAL= 11

NAME: NAVAJO SEDGE

*CAREX SPECUICOLA*

STATUS: THREATENED

CRITICAL HABITAT: Yes RECOVERY PLAN: Yes CFR:

DESCRIPTION: PERENNIAL FORB WITH TRIANGULAR STEMS, ELONGATED RHIZOMES.  
FLOWER: WHITE JUNE AND JULY

ELEVATION

RANGE: 5700-6000 FT.

COUNTIES: COCONINO, NAVAJO, APACHE

HABITAT: SILTY SOILS AT SHADY SEEPS AND SPRINGS

DESIGNATED CRITICAL HABITAT IS ON THE NAVAJO NATION NEAR INSCRIPTION HOUSE RUINS. FOUND AT SEEP SPRINGS ON VERTICAL CLIFFS OF PINK-RED NAVAJO SANDSTONE.

NAME: PEBBLES NAVAJO CACTUS

*PEDIOCACTUS PEBBLESIANUS VAR PEBBLESIANUS*

STATUS: ENDANGERED

CRITICAL HABITAT: No RECOVERY PLAN: Yes CFR: 44 FR 61922, 10-26-1979

DESCRIPTION: VERY SMALL GLOBOSE 1 INCH TALL AND ABOUT 0.75 INCH IN  
DIAMETER. THE 4 (3-5) RADIAL SPINES ARE ARRANGED IN A TWISTED  
CROSS AND CENTRAL SPINES ARE ABSENT. FLOWERS YELLOW-GREEN  
1 INCH DIAMETER SPRING.

ELEVATION

RANGE: 5400-5600 FT.

COUNTIES: NAVAJO

HABITAT: GRAVELY SOILS OF THE SHINARUMP CONGLOMERATE OF THE CHINLE FORMATION

EXTREMELY LIMITED GEOGRAPHIC RANGE. DIFFICULT TO GROW IN CULTIVATION.

NAME: BLACK-FOOTED FERRET

*MUSTELA NIGRIPES*

STATUS: ENDANGERED

CRITICAL HABITAT: No RECOVERY PLAN: Yes CFR: 32 FR 4001, 03-11-67

DESCRIPTION: WEASEL-LIKE, YELLOW BUFF COLORATION WITH BLACK FEET, TAIL TIP,  
AND EYE MASK. IT HAS A BLUNT LIGHT COLORED NOSE AND IS 15-18  
INCHES LONG AND TAIL LENGTH IS 5-6 INCHES.

ELEVATION

RANGE: &lt;10,500 FT.

COUNTIES: COCONINO, APACHE, NAVAJO

HABITAT: GRASSLAND PLAINS GENERALLY FOUND IN ASSOCIATION WITH PRAIRIE DOGS

UNSURVEYED PRARIE DOG TOWNS MAY BE OCCUPIED BY FERRETS OR MAY BE APPROPRIATE FOR FUTURE REINTRODUCTION EFFORTS. THE SERVICE DEVELOPED GUIDELINES FOR SURVEYING PRAIRIE DOG TOWNS WHICH ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST. NO POPULATIONS OF THIS SPECIES CURRENTLY KNOWN TO EXIST IN ARIZONA.



12/12/96

## ✓ NAME: APACHE (ARIZONA) TROUT

*ONCORHYNCHUS APACHE*

STATUS: THREATENED

CRITICAL HABITAT: No

RECOVERY PLAN: Yes

CFR: 40 FR 29864, 07-19-1975

DESCRIPTION: THIS YELLOWISH OR YELLOW-OLIVE CUTTHROAT-LIKE TROUT HAS  
LARGE DARK SPOTS ON BODY. ITS DORSAL, ANAL, AND CAUDAL FINS  
EDGED WITH WHITE. IT HAS NO RED LATERAL BAND.

ELEVATION

RANGE: &gt;5000 FT.

COUNTIES: APACHE, GREENLEE, GILA, GRAHAM, NAVAJO

HABITAT: PRESENTLY RESTRICTED TO COLD MOUNTAIN STREAMS WITH MANY LOW GRADIENT MEADOW REACHES

OCCUPIES STREAM HABITATS WITH SUBSTRATES OF BOULDERS, ROCKS, AND GRAVEL WITH SOME SAND OR  
SILT THROUGH MIXED CONIFER AND SPRUCE-FIR FORESTS, AND MONTANE MEADOWS AND GRASSLANDS IN THE  
WHITE MOUNTAINS. ALSO MANAGED AS A SPORT FISH UNDER SPECIAL REGULATIONS.

## NAME: LITTLE COLORADO SPINEDACE

*LEPIDOMEDA VITTATA*

STATUS: THREATENED

CRITICAL HABITAT: Yes

RECOVERY PLAN: No

CFR: 52 FR 35054

DESCRIPTION: SMALL (<4 INCHES LONG) SILVERY MINNOW WHICH IS DARKER ON THE  
BACK THAN THE BELLY

ELEVATION

RANGE: 4000-8000 FT.

COUNTIES: COCONINO, APACHE, NAVAJO

HABITAT: MODERATE TO SMALL STREAMS IN POOLS AND RIFFLES WITH WATER FLOWING OVER GRAVEL AND SILT

CRITICAL HABITAT INCLUDES EIGHTEEN MILES OF EAST CLEAR CREEK, EIGHT MILES OF CHEVELON CREEK, AND  
FIVE MILES OF NUTRIOSO CREEK

## ✓ NAME: LOACH MINNOW

*TIAROGA COBITIS*

STATUS: THREATENED

CRITICAL HABITAT: Yes

RECOVERY PLAN: Yes

CFR: 51 FR 39468, 10-28-1986;

DESCRIPTION: SMALL (<3 INCHES LONG) SLENDER, ELONGATED FISH, OLIVE COLORED  
WITH DIRTY WHITE SPOTS AT THE BASE OF THE DORSAL AND CAUDAL  
FINS. BREEDING MALES VIVID RED ON MOUTH AND BASE OF FINS

59 FR 10898, 03-08-1994

ELEVATION

RANGE: &lt;7000 FT.

COUNTIES: PINAL, GRAHAM, GREENLEE, GILA, APACHE, NAVAJO, (AZ); GRANT, CATRON, (NM)

HABITAT: BENTHIC SPECIES OF SMALL TO LARGE PERENNIAL STREAMS WITH SWIFT SHALLOW WATER OVER  
COBBLE& GRAVEL

CRITICAL HABITAT IS IN ARAVAIPA CREEK, BLUE RIVER, CAMPBELL BLUE CREEK, SAN FRANCISCO RIVER, DRY  
BLUE CREEK, TULAROSA RIVER, EAST WEST AND MIDDLE FORKS OF THE GILA RIVER, AND THE MAINSTEM UPPER  
GILA RIVER. PRESENTLY FOUND IN ALL CRITICAL HABITAT PLUS WHITE RIVER AND EAGLE CREEKS. CRITICAL  
HABITAT IS ONLY PROPOSED DUE TO A 1996 10TH CIRCUIT COURT DECISION SETTING ASIDE THE FINAL CRITICAL  
HABITAT PENDING COMPLIANCE WITH THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA).

LISTED, PROPOSED, AND CANDIDATE SPECIES FOR THE FOLLOWING COUNTY:

NAVAJO

12/12/96

✓ NAME: AMERICAN PEREGRINE FALCON

*FALCO PEREGRINUS ANATUM*

STATUS: ENDANGERED

CRITICAL HABITAT: No RECOVERY PLAN: Yes CFR: 35 FR 16047, 10-13-70; 35

DESCRIPTION: A RECLUSIVE, CROW-SIZED FALCON SLATY BLUE ABOVE WHITISH  
BELOW WITH FINE DARK BARRING. THE HEAD IS BLACK AND APPEARS  
TO BE MASKED OR HELMETED. WINGS LONG AND POINTED. LOUD  
WAILING CALLS ARE GIVEN DURING BREEDING PERIOD.

ELEVATION  
RANGE: 3500-9000 FT.

COUNTIES: MOHAVE COCONINO NAVAJO APACHE SANTA CRUZ MARICOPA COCHISE YAVAPAI GILA PINAL PIMA  
GREENLEE GRAHAM

HABITAT: CLIFFS AND STEEP TERRAIN USUALLY NEAR WATER OR WOODLANDS WITH ABUNDANT PREY

THIS IS A WIDE-RANGING MIGRATORY BIRD THAT USES A VARIETY OF HABITATS. BREEDING BIRDS ARE YEAR-  
ROUND RESIDENTS. OTHER BIRDS WINTER AND MIGRATE THROUGH ARIZONA. SPECIES IS ENDANGERED FROM  
REPRODUCTIVE FAILURE FROM PESTICIDES.

✓ NAME: BALD EAGLE

*HALIAEETUS LEUCOCEPHALUS*

STATUS: THREATENED

CRITICAL HABITAT: No RECOVERY PLAN: Yes CFR: 60 FR 35999, 07-12-95

DESCRIPTION: LARGE, ADULTS HAVE WHITE HEAD AND TAIL. HEIGHT 28 - 38";  
WINGSPAN 66 - 96". 1-4 YRS DARK WITH VARYING DEGREES OF  
MOTTLED BROWN PLUMAGE. FEET BARE OF FEATHERS.

ELEVATION  
RANGE: VARIES FT.

COUNTIES: YUMA, LA PAZ, MOHAVE, YAVAPAI, MARICOPA, PINAL, COCONINO, NAVAJO, APACHE, SANTA CRUZ, PIMA,  
GILA, GRAHAM

HABITAT: LARGE TREES OR CLIFFS NEAR WATER (RESERVOIRS, RIVERS AND STREAMS) WITH ABUNDANT PREY

SOME BIRDS ARE NESTING RESIDENTS WHILE A LARGER NUMBER WINTERS ALONG RIVERS AND RESERVOIRS.  
AN ESTIMATED 200 TO 300 BIRDS WINTER IN ARIZONA. ONCE ENDANGERED (32 FR 4001, 03-11-1967; 43 FR 6233, 02-  
14-78) BECAUSE OF REPRODUCTIVE FAILURES FROM PESTICIDE POISONING AND LOSS OF HABITAT, THIS  
SPECIES WAS DOWN LISTED TO THREATENED ON AUGUST 11, 1995. ILLEGAL SHOOTING, DISTURBANCE, LOSS OF  
HABITAT CONTINUES TO BE A PROBLEM.

NAME: CALIFORNIA CONDOR

*GYMNOPS CALIFORNIANUS*

STATUS: ENDANGERED

CRITICAL HABITAT: No RECOVERY PLAN: Yes CFR: 32 FR 4001, 03-11-67

DESCRIPTION: VERY LARGE VULTURE (55 INCHES HEAD TO TAIL, WING=34, TAIL=16,  
TARSUS=4.25). HEAD AND UPPER PARTS OF NECK BARE, BILL YELLOW,  
CERE, HEAD, AND NECK YELLOWISH-RED, PLUMAGE GREY-BLACK.

ELEVATION  
RANGE: VARIES FT.

COUNTIES: MOHAVE, COCONINO, NAVAJO COCHISE

HABITAT: HIGH DESERT CANYONLANDS, AND PLATEAUS

RECOVERY/REINTRODUCTION PROGRAM CURRENTLY EVALUATING THE FEASIBILITY OF REINTRODUCTION INTO  
ARIZONA BY 1996. NO LONGER OCCURS IN ARIZONA.

12/12/96

✓ NAME: MEXICAN SPOTTED OWL

*STRIX OCCIDENTALIS LUCIDA*

STATUS: THREATENED

CRITICAL HABITAT: Yes RECOVERY PLAN: Yes CFR: 56 FR 14678, 04-11-91

DESCRIPTION: MEDIUM SIZED WITH DARK EYES AND NO EAR TUFTS. BROWNISH AND  
HEAVILY SPOTTED WITH WHITE OR BEIGE.

ELEVATION

RANGE: 4100-9000 FT.

COUNTIES: MOHAVE, COCONINO, NAVAJO, APACHE, YAVAPAI, GRAHAM, GREENLEE, COCHISE, SANTA CRUZ, PIMA,  
PINAL, GILA, MARICOPA

HABITAT: NESTS IN CANYONS AND DENSE FORESTS WITH MULTI-LAYERED FOLIAGE STRUCTURE

GENERALLY NESTS IN OLDER FORESTS OF MIXED CONIFER OR PONDEROSA PINE/GAMBEL OAK TYPE, IN  
CANYONS, AND USE VARIETY OF HABITATS FOR FORAGING. SITES WITH COOL MICROCLIMATES APPEAR TO BE  
OF IMPORTANCE OR ARE PREFERRED.

✓ NAME: SOUTHWESTERN WILLOW FLYCATCHER

*EMPIDONAX TRAILLII EXTIMUS*

STATUS: ENDANGERED

CRITICAL HABITAT: Yes RECOVERY PLAN: No CFR: 60 FR 10694, 02-27-95

DESCRIPTION: SMALL PASSERINE (ABOUT 6") GRAYISH-GREEN BACK AND WINGS,  
WHITISH THROAT, LIGHT OLIVE-GRAY BREAST AND PALE YELLOWISH  
BELLY. TWO WINGBARS VISIBLE. EYE-RING FAINT OR ABSENT.

ELEVATION

RANGE: &lt;8500 FT.

COUNTIES: YAVAPAI, GILA, MARICOPA, MOHAVE, COCONINO, NAVAJO, APACHE, PINAL, LA PAZ, GREENLEE, GRAHAM,  
YUMA, PIMA, COCHISE, SANTA CRUZ

HABITAT: COTTONWOOD/WILLOW &amp; TAMARISK VEGETATION COMMUNITIES ALONG RIVERS &amp; STREAMS

MIGRATORY RIPARIAN OBLIGATE SPECIES THAT OCCUPIES BREEDING HABITAT FROM LATE APRIL TO  
SEPTEMBER. DISTRIBUTION WITHIN ITS RANGE IS RESTRICTED TO RIPARIAN CORRIDORS. DIFFICULT TO  
DISTINGUISH FROM OTHER MEMBERS OF THE EMPIDONAX COMPLEX BY SIGHT ALONE. TRAINING SEMINAR  
REQUIRED FOR THOSE CONDUCTING FLYCATCHER SURVEYS.

LISTED, PROPOSED, AND CANDIDATE SPECIES FOR THE FOLLOWING COUNTY:

NAVAJO

12/12/96

PROPOSED TOTAL= 1

NAME: PARISH ALKALI GRASS

*PUCCINELLIA PARISHII*

STATUS: PROPOSED ENDANGERED CRITICAL HABITAT: No RECOVERY PLAN: No CFR:

DESCRIPTION: A SMALL, BLUE-GREEN, ANNUAL GRASS. FLOWERING STEMS 1-8  
INCHES TALL

ELEVATION

RANGE: 3000-6000 FT.

COUNTIES: COCONINO, NAVAJO

HABITAT: MOIST SALINE SOILS

POTENTIALLY ANY SALINE SEEPS AND ASSOCIATED WETLANDS IN ARIZONA.

12/12/96

CANDIDATE TOTAL= 1

NAME: CHIRICAHUA LEOPARD FROG

*RANA CHIRICAHUENSIS*

STATUS: CANDIDATE CRITICAL HABITAT: No RECOVERY PLAN: No CFR: 59 FR 58996

DESCRIPTION: CREAM COLORED TUBERCULES (spots) ON A DARK BACKGROUND ON  
THE REAR OF THE THIGH, DORSOLATERAL FOLDS THAT ARE  
INTERRUPTED AND DEFLECTED MEDIALY, AND A CALL GIVEN OUT OF  
WATER DISTINGUISH THIS SPOTTED FROG FROM OTHER LEOPRD ELEVATION  
RANGE: 3000-8300 FT.

COUNTIES: SANTA CRUZ, APACHE, GILA, PIMA, COCHISE, GREENLEE, GRAHAM, YAVAPAI, COCONINO, NAVAJO

HABITAT: STREAMS, RIVERS, BACKWATERS, PONDS, AND STOCK TANKS THAT ARE FREE FROM INTRODUCED FISH  
AND BULLFROGS

REQUIRE PERMANENT OR NEARLY PERMANENT WATER SOURCES. POPULATIONS NORTH OF THE GILA RIVER ARE  
THOUGHT TO BE CLOSELY-RELATED, BUT DISTINCT, UNDESCRIBED SPECIES.

RECEIVED JUL 14 1997



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
LOS ANGELES DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
ARIZONA-NEVADA AREA OFFICE  
3636 NORTH CENTRAL AVENUE, SUITE 760  
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85012-1936

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

July 9, 1997

Office of the Chief  
Regulatory Branch

xc letter: IC  
Kath  
Ron  
Ed  
Job  
orig: Dennis

White Mountain Apache Tribe  
C/O Armstrong Consultants, Inc.  
ATTN: Mr. Dennis A. Corsi  
861 Rood Avenue  
Grand Junction, Colorado 81501

File Number: 974-0499-RWF

Dear Mr. Corsi:

It has come to our attention that you plan to perform airport improvements near the North Fork White River at (Sections 23 and 26, T5N, R22E), Whiteriver, Navajo County, Arizona.

This activity may require a Department of the Army permit issued under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. A Section 404 permit is required for the discharge of dredged or fill material into the "waters of the United States," including adjacent wetlands. Examples of activities requiring a permit are placing bank protection, temporary or permanent stockpiling of excavated material, grading roads, grading (including vegetative clearing operations) that involves the filling of low areas or leveling the land, constructing weirs or diversion dikes, constructing approach fills, and discharging dredged or fill material as part of any other activity.

Enclosed you will find a permit application form and a pamphlet that describes our regulatory program. If you have questions, please contact Ron Fowler at (602) 640-5385 x 226. Please refer to file number 974-0499-RWF in your reply.

Sincerely,

*Cindy Lester*

Cindy Lester  
Chief, Arizona Section  
Regulatory Branch

Enclosure(s)

# ARMSTRONG CONSULTANTS, INC.

861 Rood Avenue — Grand Junction, Colorado 81501 — (970) 242-0101 — FAX (970) 241-1769

August 4, 1997

Cynthia Westfall  
Whiteriver Tribal Wildlife & Outdoor Recreation Division  
P.O. Box 220  
Whiteriver, AZ 85941

RE: Whiteriver Airport  
Environmental Overview

Dear Ms. Westfall:

Armstrong Consultants has been retained to prepare an Airport Master Plan Study and Environmental Overview for the Whiteriver Airport, Whiteriver, Arizona. The Environmental Overview is intended to determine any potential environmental considerations associated with the following recommended airport improvement projects:

- (1) Relocate Parallel taxiway by 40 feet to the northwest.
- (2) Extend Runway 1/19 safety area by approximately 220 feet to the southwest.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) guidelines, a Categorical Exclusion applies to the proposed projects and the need for a full Environmental Assessment is not anticipated.

Item Number 1 is the relocation and reconstruction of the parallel taxiway 40 feet to the northwest in order to meet FAA runway-taxiway separation requirements. The existing runway-taxiway separation is 200 feet. The FAA requirement for this classification of runway is 240 feet. Relocating the taxiway to the northwest an additional 40 feet will meet FAA Safety and Design Standards.

Item number 2 is the extension of the Runway Safety Area to meet FAA Safety and Design Standards. The existing RSA is 150 feet wide by approximately 80 feet in length. The FAA requirement is 150 feet wide by 300 feet in length. Extending the Runway Safety Area approximately 220 feet to the southwest by placing fill material, grading, and compacting the area, will meet FAA Safety and Design Standards. No fill material will be placed into the White River located adjacent to the Airport and erosion control techniques will be used to.


The proposed airport improvements listed and explained above will occur exclusively within reservation land owned and controlled by the airport sponsor, the White Mountain Apache Indian Tribe.

To assist us in preparing this Environmental Overview, and to comply with the requirements of the Federal Aviation Administration, we request your comments concerning the possibility of the proposed development actions impacting biotic communities or species of special concern. Per our August 4<sup>th</sup> telecon you do not anticipate any impacts. Please forward a letter to this effect.

Enclosed for your reference is a drawing of the proposed improvements to the Whiteriver Airport. Please contact me at (970) 242-0101 if you have any questions regarding this matter. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

ARMSTRONG CONSULTANTS, INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis A. Corsi", is written over the company name.

Dennis A. Corsi  
Airport Planner

Enclosure





*Executive Office of the Chairman*  
**WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE**

RONNIE LUPE  
CHAIRMAN

March 23, 1998

Ms. Margie Drilling  
Airport Planner  
FAA - Western Pacific Region  
WWPC P.O. Box 92007  
Los Angeles, CA 90009

Re: Land Use Assurances for Proposed Airport Improvement Projects

Dear Ms. Drilling:

The White Mountain Apache Tribe makes the following statement of compatible land use assurance as required by Section 511 (a)(5) of the *Airport and Airway Improvement Act of 1982*.

The White Mountain Apache Tribe provides assurance that appropriate action has been or will be taken, to the extent reasonable, to restrict the use of land adjacent to or in the immediate vicinity of the Whiteriver Airport to activities and purposes compatible with normal airport operations, including landing and takeoff of aircraft.

The designation of land uses in the vicinity of the airport is currently the responsibility of the White Mountain Apache Tribe. Designated land uses in the vicinity of the airport include industrial, commercial, and agricultural, which are compatible with airport operation. Future land uses in the vicinity of the airport will be designated to ensure continued compatibility with airport operations.

Should the Federal Aviation Administration have any questions or comments regarding these land use assurances, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Ronnie Lupe, Tribal Chairman  
White Mountain Apache Tribe

RL:bb



PHONE (602) 338-1560  
FAX: (602) 338-1514

P.O. BOX 1150 WHITERIVER, ARIZONA 85941

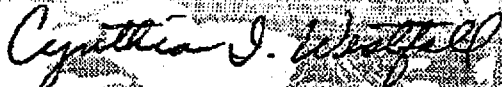
Dennis Corsi  
Armstrong Consultants, Inc.  
Airport Engineering, Planning & Environmental Studies  
861 Rood Ave.  
Grand Junction, CO 81501

Dennis:

The Biological Assessment on the proposed Whiteriver Airport renovations is complete. The biologists of the WMAT Wildlife & Outdoor Recreation Division have concluded that this project would have "no effect" on sensitive species of concern on WMAT lands except for a potential "may affect, not likely to adversely affect" on the loach minnow. Accordingly, we recommend that the Pinetop Office of USFWS be contacted for concurrence. We can initiate and carry out this process at the action agencies' request. (Keith Jones is the contact person on this matter.)

Specific mitigation measures to limit erosion and sedimentation/siltation into the adjacent North Fork of the White River and provide for restoration of disturbed land in the project area should be coordinated between the awarded contractor and the WMAT Hydrologist, Engineer, and Biologists to protect fisheries species and water quality. Landscaping and reseeding with native plant species in disturbed areas at the conclusion of the project would help with mitigation and provide aesthetics for the community. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Cynthia I. Westfall, Sensitive Species Coordinator  
WMAT-Wildlife & Outdoor Recreation Division  
March 16, 1998

cc: Jon Cooley, Director  
Kelly Meyer, Fisheries Biologist

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